

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Original) A method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions by providing two opposing support members having generally curved end connections that match the curvature of one another and securing the two opposing support members together such that one support member is allowed to rotate relative to the other support member about the curved end connection when subject to extreme loading conditions.

15. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where the curved ends of the two opposing support members are secured to one another via high-strength bolts.

16. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where a shim is placed between the curved end connections of the two opposing support members to achieve a predictable slip threshold.

17. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where the two opposing supporting members are connected to one another via a pin connection.

18. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 17, where the shim is made of brass.

19. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 17, where the shim is made of steel.

20. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 17, where the shim is made of teflon.

21. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 17, where the shim is made of bronze.